DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 248 778 HE 017 643

AUTHOR Smyrnew, John
TITLE Characteristics of Athabasca University Students. Institutional Studies Report No. 5.
INSTITUTION Athabasca Univ., Edmonton (Alberta). Office of Institutional Studies.
PUB DATE May 83
NOTE 71p.; For related document, see HE 017 642.
AVAILABLE FROM Athabasca University, Office of Institutional Studies, 12352-149 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5V 1G9 Canada.
PUB TYPE Statistical Data (110) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Age Groups; College Admission; College Preparation; College Programs; *College Students; *Enrollment Influences; Enrollment Trends; Females; Foreign Countries; Higher Education; Males; Marital Status; *Student Characteristics; Student Employment
IDENTIFIERS *Athabasca University AB

ABSTRACT

Data and analysis of characteristics of students at Athabasca University in Alberta, Canada, are presented for 1981-1982 and for previous years. Data were obtained from student responses to the General Admission Form, which is appended. Information is provided on the age and sex distribution of students, along with student age and sex distribution by program. Information for all students and for students by program are also provided concerning: educational preparation of students, most important reason for wanting a university education, preferred learning situation of students, marital status of students, and occupation of students. Findings include the following: student admissions increased by just over 30 percent in fiscal year 1981-1982 from the previous fiscal year; the female/male split of students admitted to Athabasca University was 62 and 48 percent, respectively; over two-thirds of the students were 25 to 44 years old; 89 percent of the students had completed high school and 67 percent had some form of postsecondary education; and the characteristics of students in career-oriented programs were significantly different from those of students in other programs. A list of data elements is appended. (SW)

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REPORT

CHARACTERISTICS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Prepared by John Smyrnew, May, 1983.

Institutional Studies Report No. 5

Athabasca University

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

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Office of Institutional Studies
Athabasca University
12352-149 Street
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PREFACE

This report is the fifth in a series of *Institutional Studies Reports* prepared by the Office of Institutional Studies, Athabasca University. A list of reports already available and those forthcoming may be obtained by writing to the address below.

I wish to thank several of my colleagues for their support, assistance, and advice during the preparation of this report. In particular, Tomislav Milinusic who reviewed the manuscript and offered suggestions for change. Thanks are also owing to Shelby Briggs of Media Services for help in preparation of the figures and Steven Farkas of Computing Services who provided technical help during the typesetting of this report. However, I accept sole responsibility for the facts, opinions, and any errors in the report.

In our continuing effort to improve the content and format of future reports in the series, your comments are solicited. A form for reader's comments and enquiries is provided at the back of this report. If the form has been removed, comments may be addressed to the Office of Institutional Studies, Athabasca University, 12352-149 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5V 1G9. We are looking forward to your feedback.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The major student characteristics reported in past years have remained about the same and no large deviation from those trends are anticipated. For example:

(1) Students admissions increased by just over 30 per cent in fiscal year 1981/82 from the previous fiscal year;

(2) The female/male split of students admitted to Athabasca University programs in fiscal year 1981/82 was 62 and 48 per cent respectively;

(3) Over two-thirds of the Athabasca University students were from the 25-44 years age group;

(4) An overwhelming majority (89 per cent) of Athabasca University students have completed high school and 67 per cent had some form of post-secondary education;

(5) The characteristics of students in "career" oriented programs such as offered in the B Administration program, are significantly different from students in other programs, and;

(6) The characteristics of students taking courses through North Island College are significantly different from those taking courses directly from Athabasca University.

INTRODUCTION

Whether by choice or through necessity, more and more people in Canada who want a university education are pursuing their goal on a part-time basis. As a result, part-time students may eventually outnumber full-time students and become "tomorrows majority" on Canadian campuses by the end of the century.[1] This is one of many conclusions drawn by Bélanger, et al. (1982) in a major study of part-time degree students. Since the highest participation is expected to come from those in the 25-44 years age group, the above authors noted that while attendance at a formal educational institution used to be an activity of youth, it is now becoming a "lifetime commitment" for many. The report also emphasized the changing role of women in Canadian society as contributing to this increase, pointing out that 56 per cent of the university population were women in 1979.

These generalizations are substantiated in other recent studies by Solmon and Gordon (1981) and Anisef, et al. (1982). Not surprisingly, Athabasca University students are much like those students who study part-time at conventional universities. This study is concerned with providing Athabasca University's management with a detailed "snapshot" description of its student body during the fiscal year 1981/82. It is also to be used as a companion to the *Geographic Distribution of Athabasca University Students* report (Smyrnew, 1983) issued as Institutional Studies Report No. 3 and is a consolidation of several other earlier reports produced by the Office of Institutional Studies, including:

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[1] It was reported that more than 16,000 students enroled at McGill University's centre for continuing education and many others took courses part-time in other departments of the university in the May, 1983 issue of *University Affairs*.

(1) *Characteristics of Administrative Studies Students* (Hammer, 1981);

(2) *Characteristics of Students Enroled Through North Island College and Students Enroled Directly with Athabasca University* (Hammer, 1981);

(3) *Characteristics of Athabasca University Students Enroling in Fiscal Year 1980/81* (Hammer, 1981), and;

(4) *Characteristics of Athabasca University Students for Fiscal Years 1976/77 to 1979/80.*

The highlights of those reports were that:

(1) Most Athabasca University students were female, ranging from 58 per cent in fiscal year 1976/77 to 62 per cent in fiscal year 1980/81. However, most of the students (55 per cent) that registered in the Administrative Studies program were male.

(2) The typical Athabasca University student was in the 25-44 years age group (67 per cent in fiscal year 1980/81) and the average age of a student was 32 years. Of those students registered in the Administrative Studies program in fiscal year 1980/81, 79 per cent were in the 25-44 years age group. But, students who took courses through North Island College, were generally younger with over one-third from the 18-24 years age group.

(3) The percentage of students with complete high school (both diploma and matriculation) increased from 69 per cent in fiscal year 1977/78 to 74 per cent in fiscal year 1980/81. Students with a previous university degree or some university grew from 24 per cent to 39 per cent during the same period. Furthermore, a substantial number (43 per cent) of Athabasca University students had either a previous university degree or some university, compared to slightly more than 25 per cent of

North Island College students.

(4) "Homemakers" were the single largest occupational group (8 per cent) in fiscal year 1980/81 followed by nurses, teachers, students, the retired, and clerical occupations.

(5) The single most important reason for undertaking university study were for career reasons (40 per cent), followed by personal development (23 per cent) in fiscal year 1980/81. However, a large majority (61 per cent) of students admitted to the Administrative Studies program noted career development as their main reason for undertaking university study.

(6) Students have consistently reported that the main reasons for studying with Athabasca University were because of time and distance factors (20 per cent and 27 per cent respectively in fiscal year 1980/81).

The student characteristics given in this report have been aggregated to three reporting levels. They are, by fiscal year periods (wherever comparatively possible), by program, and by institution. Readers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the terminology outlined in the "Definition" section of this report to better interpret and comprehend statistics presented.

Background information on how the statistics were generated and their reliability are located in the "Data and Method" section. Analytical and concluding comments, as well as figures and tables used to supplement the text of the report are found in the next sections.

DEFINITIONS

ADMISSION:
A student generates one admission when he or she is formally admitted to the university. University policy permits students to be admitted to programs at any time during the year.

COURSE REGISTRATION:
A student generates one course registration for each course that he or she is registered. Where the term "enrolment" was used in past reports its meaning is synonymous to "registration". Often course registrations will usually exceed student admissions by about a third. Course registrations are calculated at the "start date" of a course.

FISCAL YEAR:
The twelve month period of fiscal operations specified in *The Universities Act* (April 1 to March 31).

INSTITUTION:
In this study only two institutions are considered, they are Athabasca University and North Island College. Athabasca University admissions exclude the other, however they include all other affiliated institutions such as Blue Quills, Lakeland College, Lac La Biche, Fort McMurray and Calgary Regional Offices, and Nantonum. Where in the report the term "All Students" is used, it refers to all institutions or the entire student population.

PROGRAM:
Athabasca University has four major programs to which a student may be admitted:

- **Degree programs** are programs leading to the Bachelor's degree awarded by Athabasca University- the Bachelor of Administration, the Bachelor of General Studies, and the Bachelor of Arts. These programs differ significantly in the amount of freedom students have in choosing their own courses.
- **Transfer programs** are designed to accommodate students who wish to use Athabasca University courses to start, add to, or complete degree programs at other post-secondary institutions. Some transfer programs (such as the Bachelor of Science in Nursing transfer programs to the University of Alberta) have been jointly organized by Athabasca University and another university. In other cases, however, it is the student who determines which Athabasca University courses are suitable for transfer to the other institution.
- **Visiting student program** is designed to accommodate students who are currently registered in a degree program at another institution. Students who have been forced to stop full-time study in degree programs at other universities may find it useful to use Athabasca University courses to continue their degree.
- **Non-Program** category permits students to take virtually any course for which they have the prerequisite knowledge. This category is intended for students who wish to pursue personal or career-related interests without working towards a

specific degree. It is also a useful category for those who wish to explore their interests before choosing a particular program.

1.0 DATA AND METHOD

"Tomorrow's majority" constitute a large and growing segment of the post-secondary education system in Alberta. Yet until recently, little was known about their background, educational needs, or goals. If post-secondary institutions in Alberta are to regard these part-time students as substitutes for the decreasing numbers of traditional age students and cater to the general need of increasing accessibility, they will need to know more about how part-time and traditional students are different. For example, do Athabasca University students have the same educational preparation as their University of Alberta counterparts? Are they more likely to be women than men or come from minority backgrounds? What is their motivation for attending university? Are they likely to select the same programs and want the same kinds of courses as a first year student at the University of Alberta?

The student characteristic information provided in this report is derived from students' completed *General Admission Form* (GAF). Data contained on this form (see Appendix 1) is transcribed edited, and entered into the computerized Athabasca University Student Record Systems and is stored indefinitely in either an active or withdrawal file.[2]

Several outstanding problems exist with this information, most relating to incompleteness and errors caused by:[3]

---

[2] The Athabasca University Student Record System uses the SPIRES database management system running at the University of Alberta.

[3] There is no figure available on the number of incomplete fields on the Student Record System database, but, it has been estimated that 10 per cent of the records have 1 or more errors based on a cleanup of fiscal year 1981/82 data.

(1) The haphazard way some students complete the GAF;

(2) The optional nature of many questions, especially those found in Section D of the GAF;

(3) Some affiliated institutions not encouraging students to complete the GAF and neglecting to forward Section D of the GAF to Athabasca University;

(4) Inadequate machine editing during data entry and the absence of exception reporting afterwards, and;

(5) The lack of comprehensive and written policies to coordinate the capture of data from the GAF.

A practice of sending students a follow-up questionnaire, asking them to complete certain essential data elements such as birth date and citizenship was discontinued because of a negative cost/benefit to the university. Consequently, the integrity of many data elements is questionable and statistics produced should be interpreted with this in mind.

The inflexibility of the host database management system to handle complex data manipulation and statistical processing has compounded the problem of providing totally reliable data aggregations. As a result, a special "relational" type database had to be created for the study.[4] It was based on students who started a course during the fiscal year 1981/82 and consisted of 5,314 records, representing the number of admissions to Athabasca University. The records were iteratively machine validated according to correct values given in the *Athabasca University Student Record System Data Dictionary* (White, 1982), and policies outlined in minutes of Athabasca University Governing Council meetings for each data element were manually corrected. A list of data elements

[4] All information in a relational database is represented by values in tables (even table names appear as character strings in at least one table). This allows for relationships among two or more variables to be represented or linked by a data structure.

processed may be found in Appendix 2. The data elements that could not be "cleaned" owing to incomplete information from a student's GAF were classified and coded as "No response".

Statistical analysis and data manipulation was done using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and MARK IV programming language. Graphics were generated by the Display Integrated System and Plotting Language (DISSPLA) from summary statistics on a CALCOMP 1051 plotter. Information on the Alberta population was taken from the Statistics Canada 1981 census.

2.0 ANALYSIS

In this section of the report, major findings are highlighted and discussed. As noted previously, student characteristics have been aggregated to three reporting levels and each are treated in separate sections below. Owing to definitional and format changes in the GAF between fiscal years 1978/79 to 1981/82, some questions are no longer comparable on a fiscal year basis. Whenever this has occurred, only the most current fiscal (1981/82) has been reported.

2.1 Characteristics by Fiscal Year

Student admissions increased by just over 30 per cent in fiscal year 1981/82 from the previous fiscal year. The trend to have more females than males admitted to Athabasca University programs on a roughly 60 and 40 per cent split remains (see Figure 1). During fiscal year 1981/82, 62 per cent of admissions were females (see Table 1a).

Over two-thirds of Athabasca University students were from the 25-44 years age group, followed by 23 per cent from the 18-24 years age group. When compared to the Alberta population, the 25-44 years age group of Athabasca University students were over represented by 23 per cent, with the 45-64 years age group (8 per cent of total student admissions) under represented by 15 per cent (see Table 2a). As well, the age distribution proportions have remained generally the same since fiscal year 1978/79 (see Figure 3).

The overwhelming majority of Athabasca University students (89 per cent) in fiscal year 1981/82 completed high school and 67 per cent of them had some form of post-secondary education (see Table 4a). This is a significant figure when compared to the Alberta population because only 45 per cent of Albertans had complete high school and

even a smaller number, 35 per cent had some form of post-secondary education in 1981.

The largest number of students (37 per cent) attended university to prepare themselves for future careers and this has been the consistent trend over the years (see Table 5a). Fewer than one-quarter (21 per cent) wanted a university education for personal development and only 15 per cent attended for transfer reasons.

The largest group of students chose to study with Athabasca University for time (26 per cent) and distance (19 per cent) reasons (see Table 6a). However, since fiscal year 1978/79 an increasingly larger percentage of students have not responded to this question (see Figure 7), with a high of 27 per cent in fiscal year 1981/82.

An interesting change over the years has been the declining percentage of students who preferred to learn both on their own and an in a group from 48 per cent in fiscal year 1978/79 to 32 per cent in fiscal year 1981/82 (Table 7a). The percentage of students who preferred to study on their own has remained at around 30 per cent and peaked at 32 per cent in fiscal year 1981/82.

A large majority (65 per cent) of students were married, compared to less than one-half (45 per cent) for the Alberta population in 1976 (see Table 8a). This would appear to indicate that Athabasca University students were somewhat more "mature" than the typical single university or college student and most probably did not have the time to devote to full-time studies at conventional institutions because of other commitments.

Students having classifiable occupations, the largest group (17 per cent) were from the not working group, made up of full-time students, the unemployed, and homemakers (see Table 9a). Other important groups worth mentioning were clerical (11 per cent), health (10 per cent), managerial (8 per cent), and service (7 per cent) occupations.

2.2 Characteristics by Program

Although, the overwhelming majority of students admitted to Athabasca University during the fiscal year 1981/82 were female, this the majority was found to vary significantly among the program areas (Figure 2). For example, the largest percentage of females were found to be in the visiting student (77.1 per cent), transfer (70.7 per cent), and in the BA Liberal Studies (68.8 per cent) programs (see Table 1b). In the BGS Applied Studies and B Administration programs, however, the percentage of females dropped to 54.3 per cent and 50.2 per cent respectively in fiscal year 1981/82.

Students admitted to the BGS Applied Studies and B Administration programs tended to be generally older than students in other programs in fiscal year 1981/82. In the BGS Applied Studies and B Administration programs, 79.3 per cent and 75.1 per cent of students were from the 25-44 years age group, compared to a mean of 67.5 per cent for the group (see Table 2b). As well, students admitted to the transfer and visiting student programs, tended to be younger with 27.6 per cent and 28.6 per cent students respectively in the 18-24 years age group.

An interesting statistic on students admitted to the visiting student program is that 61.9 per cent of these students had some university education, compared to a mean of only 22.4 per cent for all other programs (see Table 4b). It would appear that a significant number of students who are either registered another university or did not complete university elsewhere are attempting to obtain credits at Athabasca University to complete a degree. As well, 38.6 per cent of students admitted to the BGS Applied Studies program had some previous university education. This would seem to suggest that they are now trying to compiete their degree with Athabasca University. A large number of non-program (25.2 per cent) had complete degrees, implying that these stu-

dents are taking certain courses to upgrade themselves.

Over one-half (54.4 per cent) of the students in the B Administration program noted future career preparation, compared to a mean of 36.8 per cent for all programs as the most important reason for wanting a university education (see Figure 6). A somewhat smaller percentage of students in the BA Liberal Studies (30.3 per cent), BGS Liberal Studies (26.5 per cent), BGS Applied Studies (27.1 per cent), and non-program (26.2 per cent) reported that they were attending university for personal development and interest, compared to a mean of 21.5 per cent (see Table 5b). A significant number of students (26.3 per cent) did not even respond to this question, most of them from the non-program (663) and transfer (314) categories.

When asked about their major reason for studying at Athabasca University, though most students who responded stated time (26.2 per cent or 1,392), no major differences were discerned among the other categories. (see Table 6b). But a disappointingly large number of students (1,432 or 26.9 per cent) did not bother to respond to this question also.

The majority of students in the BA Liberal Studies (54.0 per cent), BGS Applied Studies (61.4 per cent), and B Administration (55.5 per cent) programs reported that they were married, compared to a mean of 44.7 per cent for all programs (see Table 8b). A substantially smaller number of students admitted as transfer (37.0 per cent), non-program (38.1 per cent) and visiting (44.0 per cent) reported themselves as married. However, these students did not appear in exceedingly large numbers elsewhere, except in the no response category. Also, one might safely assume that most of the students who stated that they were single, or unmarried, attended Athabasca University through North Island College. As reported in other sections of this study, North Island College

has a younger student population and does not closely oversee student responses to the GAF.

The occupations of students admitted to Athabasca University are quite diverse. However, certain occupational groups tend to dominate certain programs. For example, in the B Administration program, 18.6 per cent of the students stated that they were managerial, 16 per cent were clerical, and 17.6 per cent were not classifiable (see Table 9b). Moreover, almost one-quarter (23.2 per cent) of transfer students noted a health related occupation. Visiting students were dominated by those classified as teaching (16.0 per cent), in health (19.0 per cent), not classified (20.0 per cent), and not working (26.9 per cent).

2.3 Student Characteristics by Institution

As alluded to previously, North Island College students are somewhat younger when compared to Athabasca University students (see Figure 4). Of those students attending North Island College, 32.5 per cent were from 18-24 years age group, compared to 20.6 per cent of Athabasca University students and a mean of 22.6 per cent (see Table 2c). Over two-thirds of students (69.9 per cent) attending Athabasca University were from the 25-44 years age group, compared to 56.3 per cent of North Island College students and a mean of 67.5 per cent for the entire group.

When studying educational preparation, it was found that just over a third (33.6 per cent) of North Island College students had completed high school compared to 20.2 per cent of Athabasca University students and a mean of 22.5 per cent (see Table 4c). However, almost one-quarter (24.0 per cent) of Athabasca University students had some university, compared to only 15.8 per cent of North Island College students (see Figure 5). Overall, 69.2 per cent per cent of Athabasca University students had some form of

post-secondary education, compared to 52.5 per cent North Island College students.

Because of high non-response rates (between 50-60 per cent) from North Island College students to the optional questions in Section D of the GAF (Tables 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8c), no comparative figures are reported here.

CONCLUSIONS

Given the under representation of certain Athabasca University student demographic groups, such as those outside the 25-44 years age group and male, the university should try to determine the reason for this occurrence. Although the Athabasca University student population grew by about 30 per cent in fiscal year 1981/82 from the previous fiscal year, the university has always drawn on students from the same population pool. It would be in the best interest of Athabasca University to increase the size of its potential population pool to avoid the eventuality of it "drying up". In the long term, developing a marketing strategy to penetrate this large population pool might be considered, as well as increasing the number of "career" oriented course offerings.

Of a more pressing nature in the short term, is a need to have access to "clean" and complete student characteristic information. For Athabasca University to develop a sound marketing strategy and increase course offerings in "key" areas, decision making will have to be assisted in part by timely and correct information about its students.

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Figures

Tables

Table 1a.
Sex Distribution of Athabasca University Students
from Fiscal Years 1978/79 to 1981/82[5]

Sex	1978/79 Students	%	1979/80 Students	%	1980/81 Students	%	1981/82 Students	%	% Alberta Population
Male	1,045	39	1,309	38	1,581	39	2,028	38	51
Female	1,668	61	2,152	62	2,494	61	3,286	62	49
No response	1	-	5	-	2	-	-	-	-
Total	2,714	100	3,466	100	4,077	100	5,314	100	100

[5] Source for Alberta population in 1981 is Statistics Canada (1982a).

Table 1b.
Sex Distribution of Athabasca University Students
by Program in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Program	Female	Male	Total
BA Liberal Studies	320 (68.8%)	145 (31.2%)	465 (100.0%)
BGS Liberal Studies	130 (63.7%)	74 (36.3%)	204 (100.0%)
BGS Applied Studies	76 (54.3%)	64 (45.7%)	140 (100.0%)
B Administration	614 (50.2%)	618 (49.8%)	1,232 (100.0%)
Transfer	738 (70.7%)	306 (29.3%)	1,044 (100.0%)
Non-Program	1,083 (59.9%)	725 (40.1%)	1,808 (100.0%)
Visiting	325 (77.1%)	96 (22.9%)	421 (100.0%)
Total	3,286 (61.8%)	2,028 (38.2%)	5,314 (100.0%)

Table 1c.
Sex Distribution of Athabasca University Students
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Sex	Athabasca University	North Island College	All Students
Female	2,753	533	3,286
	(62.5%)	(58.8%)	(61.8%)
Male	1,655	373	2,028
	(37.5%)	(41.2%)	(38.2%)
Total	4,408	906	5,314

Table 2a.
Age Distribution of Athabasca University Students
from Fiscal Years 1978/79 to 1981/82[6]

Age Group	1978/79 Students	%	1979/80 Students	%	1980/81 Students	%	1981/82 Students	%	% Alberta Population
18 - 24	647	24	877	25	902	22	1,199	23	22
25 - 44	1,674	62	2,165	62	2,739	67	3,587	67	44
45 - 64	318	12	325	9	335	8	444	8	23
65 +	-	-	60	2	89	2	53	1	10
No response	75	2	39	1	12	1	31	1	-
Total	2,714	100	3,466	100	4,077	100	5,314	100	100

[6] Source for Alberta population in 1981 is Statistics Canada (1982b).

Table 2b.
Age Distribution of Athabasca University Students
by Program in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Program	18-24	25-44	45-64	65 +	Not Known	Total
BA Liberal Studies	94 (20.2%)	316 (68.0%)	48 (10.3%)	5 (1.1%)	2 (0.4%)	465 (100.0%)
BGS Liberal Studies	41 (20.1%)	136 (66.7%)	22 (10.8%)	4 (2.0%)	1 (0.5%)	204 (100.0%)
BGS Applied Studies	12 (8.6%)	111 (79.3%)	16 (11.4%)	1 (0.7%)	- -	140 (100.0)
B Administration	220 (17.9%)	925 (75.1%)	86 (7.0%)	1 (0.1%)	- -	1,232 (100.0%)
Transfer	288 (27.6%)	666 (63.8%)	77 (7.4%)	7 (0.7)	6 (0.6%)	1,044 (100.0%)
Non-Program	427 (23.6%)	1,175 (65.0%)	156 (8.6%)	44 (2.4%)	6 (0.3%)	1,808 (100.0%)
Visiting	120 (28.6%)	260 (61.7%)	40 (9.5%)	1 (0.2%)	- -	421 (100.0%)
Total	1,202 (22.6%)	3,590 (67.5%)	445 (8.4%)	63 (1.2%)	15 (0.3%)	5,314 (100.0%)

Table 2c.
Age Distribution of Athabasca University Students
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Age Group	Athabasca University	North Island College	All Students
18 - 24	908	294	1,202
	(20.6%)	(32.5%)	(22.6%)
25 - 44	3,079	510	3,589
	(69.9%)	(56.3%)	(67.5%)
45 - 64	369	76	445
	(8.4%)	(8.4%)	(8.4%)
65 +	49	14	63
	(1.1%)	(1.5%)	(1.2%)
No response	3	12	15
	-	(1.3%)	(.3%)
Total	4,408	906	5,314

Table 3.
Alberta Population 18 Years of Age and Greater
by Age Group and Sex in 1981[7]

Age Group	Female Population	%	Male Population	%	Alberta Population	%
18 - 24	173,590	23	184,625	23	358,215	23
25 - 44	332,980	43	361,870	45	694,850	44
45 - 64	176,750	23	182,280	23	359,030	23
65 >	89,150	11	74,240	9	163,390	10
Total	772,470	100	803,015	100	1,575,485	100

[7] Source for Alberta population in 1981 is Statistics Canada (1982a).

Table 4a.
Educational Preparation of Athabasca University Students for Fiscal Year 1981/82[8]

Level of Education	1981/82 Students	%	% Alberta Population
Less than complete high school	476	9	55
Complete high school	1,196	22	10
Some university	1,201	23	5
Complete degree	839	16	9
Other post-secondary	1,485	28	21
No response	117	2	-
Total	5,314	100	100

[8] Owing to a change in the counting method used, data for years previous to the current fiscal year are no longer comparable. *Other post-secondary* includes vocational and business college, some college, college and nursing school. Per cent Alberta population is based on people 15 years of age and greater by level of schooling in 1976 and source is Statistics Canada (1978b).

Table 4b.
Educational Preparation of Athabasca University Students
by Program in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Program	Less than complete high school	Complete high school diploma or matriculation	Some university	Complete degree	Other post-secondary	No response	Total
BA Liberal Studies	41 (8.8%)	113 (24.3%)	120 (25.8%)	38 (8.2%)	146 (31.4%)	7 (1.5%)	465 (100.0%)
BGS Liberal Studies	33 (16.2%)	47 (23.0%)	50 (24.5%)	16 (7.8%)	51 (25.1%)	7 (3.4%)	204 (100.0%)
BGS Applied Studies	7 (5.0%)	15 (10.8%)	54 (38.6%)	18 (12.9%)	44 (31.4%)	2 (1.4%)	140 (100.0%)
B Administration	124 (10.0%)	341 (27.7%)	211 (17.1%)	172 (14.0%)	362 (29.4%)	22 (1.8%)	1,232 (100.0%)
Transfer	74 (7.1%)	225 (21.5%)	250 (23.9%)	106 (10.2%)	375 (35.9%)	14 (1.3%)	1,044 (100.0%)
Non-Program	187 (10.4%)	425 (23.5%)	256 (14.2%)	455 (25.2%)	438 (24.1%)	47 (2.6%)	1,808 (100.0%)
Visiting	10 (2.4%)	30 (7.0%)	250 (61.9%)	34 (8.1%)	69 (16.5%)	19 (4.3%)	421 (100.0%)
Total	476 (9.0%)	1,196 (22.5%)	1,191 (22.4%)	839 (15.8%)	1,485 (28.0%)	118 (2.2%)	5,314 (100.0%)

Table 4c.
Educational Preparation of Athabasca University Students
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Level of Education	Athabasca University	North Island College	All Students
Less than complete high school	360 (8.2%)	116 (12.8%)	476 (9.0%)
Complete high school	892 (20.2%)	304 (33.6%)	1,196 (22.5%)
Some university	1,058 (24.0%)	143 (15.8%)	1,201 (22.6%)
Complete degree	732 (16.6%)	107 (11.8%)	839 (15.8%)
Other post-secondary	1,259 (28.6%)	226 (24.9%)	1,485 (27.9%)
No response	107 (2.4%)	10 (1.1%)	117 (2.2%)
Total	4,408	906	5,314

Table 5a.
Most Important Reason for Wanting a University Education to Athabasca University Students from Fiscal Years 1978/79 to 1981/82[9]

Reason for University	1978/79 Students	%	1979/80 Students	%	1980/81 Students	%	1981/82 Students	%
Preparation for future career	1,029	38	1,411	41	1,631	40	1,954	37
Credit transfer or AU degree	499	18	582	17	639	16	795	15
Personal development	879	32	982	28	944	23	1,142	21
No response	307	11	491	14	863	21	1,423	27
Total	2,714	100	3,466	100	4,077	100	5,314	100

[9] The form in which this question has been asked is different for each fiscal year.

Table 5b.
Most Important Reason for Wanting a University Education
to Athabasca University Students by Program
in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Program	Preparation for future career	Credit transfer or AU degree	Personal development interest and improvement	No response	Total
BA Liberal Studies	142 (30.5%)	98 (21.1%)	141 (30.3%)	84 (18.1%)	465 (100.0%)
BGS Liberal Studies	66 (32.4%)	46 (22.5%)	54 (26.5%)	38 (18.6%)	204 (100.0%)
BGS Applied Studies	58 (41.4%)	22 (15.7%)	38 (27.1%)	22 (15.7%)	140 (100.0%)
B Administration	670 (54.4%)	166 (13.0%)	199 (16.2%)	203 (16.5%)	1,232 (100.0%)
Transfer	385 (36.9%)	179 (17.1%)	166 (15.9%)	314 (30.1%)	1,044 (100.0%)
Non-Program	473 (26.2%)	198 (11.0%)	474 (26.2%)	663 (36.7%)	1,808 (100.0)
Visiting	160 (38.0%)	92 (21.9%)	70 (16.7%)	99 (23.6%)	421 (100.0%)
Total	1,954 (36.8%)	795 (15.0%)	1,142 (21.5%)	1,423 (26.8%)	5,314 (100.0%)

Table 5c.
Most Important Reason for Wanting a University Education to Athabasca University Students by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Reason for University	Athabasca University	North Island College	All Students
Preparation for future career	1,776 (40.3%)	178 (19.6%)	1,954 (36.8%)
Credit transfer or AU degree	719 (16.3%)	76 (8.4%)	795 (15.0%)
Personal development	1,008 (22.9%)	134 (14.8%)	1,142 (21.5%)
No response	905 (20.5%)	518 (57.2%)	1,423 (26.8%)
Total	4,408	906	5,314

Table 6a.
Major Reason for Studying at Athabasca University
from Fiscal Years 1978/79 to 1981/82

Reason for Studying at Athabasca University	1978/79 Students	%	1979/80 Students	%	1980/81 Students	%	1981/82 Students	%
Time	844	31	997	29	1,104	27	1,392	26
Distance	652	24	780	22	834	20	999	19
Educational	524	19	672	19	692	17	785	15
Financial	351	13	479	14	554	14	707	13
No response	343	13	538	16	893	22	1,431	27
Total	2,714	100	3,466	100	4,077	100	5,314	100

Table 6b.
Major Reason for Studying at Athabasca University
by Program in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Program	Time	Distance	Educational	Financial	No response	Total
BA Liberal Studies	129 (27.7%)	92 (19.8%)	93 (20.0%)	71 (15.3%)	80 (17.2%)	465 (100.0%)
BGS Liberal Studies	40 (19.6%)	54 (26.5%)	46 (22.5%)	24 (11.8%)	40 (19.6%)	204 (100.0%)
BGS Applied Studies	38 (27.1%)	32 (22.9%)	22 (15.7%)	25 (17.9%)	23 (16.4%)	140 (100.0%)
B Administration	384 (31.2%)	218 (17.7%)	178 (14.4%)	247 (20.0%)	205 (16.6%)	1,232 (100.0%)
Transfer	271 (26.0%)	178 (17.0%)	156 (14.9%)	118 (11.3%)	321 (30.7%)	1,044 (100.0%)
Non-Program	387 (21.4%)	326 (18.0%)	238 (13.2%)	195 (10.8%)	662 (36.6%)	1,808 (100.0%)
Visiting	143 (34.0%)	99 (23.6%)	52 (12.2%)	27 (6.4%)	100 (23.8%)	421 (100.0%)
Total	1,392 (26.2%)	999 (18.8%)	785 (14.8%)	707 (13.3%)	1,431 (26.9%)	5,314 (100.0%)

Table 6c.
Major Reason for Studying at Athabasca University
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Reason for Athabasca University	Athabasca University	North Island College	All Students
Time	1,309	83	1,392
	(29.7%)	(9.2%)	(26.2%)
Distance	873	126	999
	(19.8%)	(13.9%)	(18.8%)
Educational	681	104	785
	(15.4%)	(11.5%)	(14.8%)
Financial	650	57	707
	(14.8%)	(6.3%)	(13.3%)
No response	895	536	1,431
	(20.3%)	(59.2%)	(26.9%)
Total	4,408	906	5,314

Table 7a.
Preferred Learning Situation of Athabasca University Students
from Fiscal Years 1978/79 to 1981/82

Study Situation	1978/79 Students	%	1979/80 Students	%	1980/81 Students	%	1981/82 Students	%
On your own	780	29	986	28	1,268	31	1,722	32
In a group	232	9	231	7	188	5	190	4
Combination own and group	1,292	48	1,481	43	1,494	37	1,692	32
Not sure	127	5	763	22	1,126	27	317	6
No response	283	10	5	-	1	-	1,393	26
Total	2,714	100	3,466	100	4,077	100	5,314	100

Table 7b.
Preferred Learning Situation of Athabasca University Students
by Program in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Program	On your own	In a group	Combination own and group	Not sure	No response	Total
BA Liberal Studies	170 (36.6%)	15 (3.2%)	157 (33.8%)	42 (9.0%)	81 (17.4%)	465 (100.0%)
BGS Liberal Studies	73 (35.8%)	8 (3.9%)	73 (35.8%)	12 (5.9%)	38 (18.6%)	204 (100.0%)
BGS Applied Studies	44 (31.4%)	12 (8.6%)	55 (39.3%)	9 (6.4%)	20 (14.3%)	140 (100.0%)
B Administration	512 (41.6%)	23 (1.9%)	413 (33.5%)	83 (6.7%)	201 (16.3%)	1,232 (100.0%)
Transfer	263 (25.2%)	50 (4.8%)	356 (34.1%)	60 (5.7%)	315 (30.2%)	1,232 (100.0%)
Non-Program	515 (28.5%)	70 (3.9%)	488 (27.0%)	91 (5.0%)	644 (35.6%)	1,808 (100.0%)
Visiting	145 (34.5%)	12 (2.9%)	150 (35.6%)	20 (4.8%)	94 (22.4%)	421 (100.0%)
Total	1,722 (32.4%)	190 (3.6%)	1,692 (31.8%)	317 (6.0%)	1,393 (26.2%)	5,314 (100.0%)

Table 7c.
Preferred Learning Situation of Athabasca University Students
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Study Situation	Athabasca University	North Island College	All Students
On your own	1,643 (37.3%)	79 (8.7%)	1,722 (32.4%)
In a group	142 (3.2%)	48 (5.3%)	190 (3.6%)
Combination own and group	1,464 (33.2%)	228 (25.2%)	1,692 (31.8%)
Not sure	289 (6.5%)	28 (3.1%)	317 (6.0%)
No response	870 (19.8%)	523 (57.7%)	1,393 (26.2%)
Total	4,408	906	5,314

Table 8a.
Marital Status of Athabasca University Students
for Fiscal Year 1981/82[10]

Marital Status	1981/82 Students	%	% Alberta Population
Married	2,376	65	45
Single	1,288	24	27
Other	363	7	8
No response	1,287	24	-
Total	5,314	100	100

[10] It assumed that *Other* is made up of widowed and divorced people. Per cent Alberta population is based on marital status in 1976 and the source is Statistics Canada (1978a).

Table 8b.
Marital Status of Athabasca University Students
by Program in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Program	Married	Single	Other	No response	Total
BA Liberal Studies	251 (54.0%)	102 (21.9%)	40 (8.6%)	72 (15.5%)	465 (100.0%)
BGS Liberal Studies	95 (46.6%)	54 (26.5%)	21 (10.3%)	34 (16.7%)	204 (100.0%)
BGS Applied Studies	86 (61.4%)	27 (19.3%)	8 (5.7%)	19 (13.6%)	140 (100.0%)
B Administration	684 (55.5%)	263 (21.3%)	103 (8.4%)	182 (14.8%)	1,232 (100.0%)
Transfer	386 (37.0%)	304 (29.1%)	64 (6.1%)	290 (27.8%)	1,044 (100.0%)
Non-program	689 (38.1%)	411 (22.7%)	110 (6.1%)	598 (33.1%)	1,808 (100.0%)
Visiting	185 (44.0%)	127 (30.1%)	17 (4.0%)	92 (21.9%)	421 (100.0%)
Total	2,376 (44.7%)	1,288 (24.2%	363 (6.8%)	1,287 (24.2%)	5,314 (100.0%)

Table 8c.
Marital Status of Athabasca University Students
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Marital Status	Athabasca University	North Island College	All Students
Married	2,170 (49.2%)	206 (22.7%)	2,376 (44.7%)
Single	1,122 (25.5%)	166 (18.3%)	1,288 (24.2%)
Other	319 (7.2%)	44 (4.9%)	363 (6.8%)
No response	797 (18.1%)	490 (54.1%)	1,287 (24.2%)
Total	4,408	906	5,314

Table 9a.
Occupation of Athabasca University Student
from Fiscal Years 1978/79 to 1981/82[11]

Occupation Description	1978/79 Students	%	1979/80 Students	%	1980/81 Students	%	1981/82 Students	%
Managerial	50	2	80	2	69	2	445	8
Sciences	-	-	-	-	-	-	216	4
Social Sciences	-	-	-	-	-	-	157	3
Teaching	220	8	308	9	258	6	432	8
Health	284	8	205	6	299	7	538	10
Clerical	229	8	322	9	199	5	582	11
Sales	59	2	48	1	38	1	129	2
Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	392	7
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	1
Other crafts	-	-	-	-	-	-	105	2
Not Classified	1,191	44	1,714	50	2,626	64	1,056	20
Miscellaneous	9	-	11	-	7	-	301	6
Not working	672	15	778	23	581	14	897	17
Total	2,714	100	3,466	100	4,077	100	5,314	100

[11] Description of occupations taken from *Canadian Classification and Dictionary of Occupations*. All percentages have been rounded to nearest whole number.

Table 9b.
Occupation of Athabasca University Students
by Program in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Program	Managerial	Sciences	Social Sciences	Teaching	Health	Clerical	Sales
BA Liberal Studies	31 (6.7%)	11 (2.4%)	19 (4.1%)	33 (7.1%)	19 (4.1%)	56 (12.0%)	13 (2.8%)
BGS Liberal Studies	12 (5.9%)	6 (2.9%)	6 (2.9%)	12 (5.9%)	18 (8.8%)	12 (5.9%)	3 (1.5%)
BGS Applied Studies	17 (12.1%)	12 (8.6%)	5 (3.6%)	16 (11.4%)	8 (5.7%)	5 (3.6%)	6 (4.3%)
B Administration	229 (18.6%)	63 (5.1%)	32 (2.6%)	33 (2.7%)	50 (4.1%)	197 (16.0%)	59 (4.8%)
Transfer	35 (3.4%)	34 (3.3%)	37 (3.5%)	83 (8.0%)	244 (23.4%)	64 (6.1%)	14 (1.3%)
Non-Program	111 (6.1%)	82 (4.5%)	50 (2.8%)	188 (10.4%)	119 (6.6%)	228 (12.6%)	28 (1.5%)
Visiting	10 (2.4%)	8 (1.9%)	8 (1.9%)	67 (16.0%)	80 (19.0%)	20 (4.5%)	6 (1.4%)
Total	445 (8.4%)	216 (4.1%)	157 (3.0%)	432 (8.1%)	538 (10.1%)	582 (11.0%)	129 (2.4%)

Table 9b (continued).
Occupation of Athabasca University Students
by Program in Fiscal Year 1981/82[12]

Program	Service	Transportation	Other crafts	Not classified	Miscellaneous	Not working	Total
BA Liberal Studies	38 (8.2%)	4 (0.9%)	7 (1.5%)	97 (20.9%)	32 (6.9%)	105 (22.6%)	465 (100.0%)
BGS Liberal Studies	14 (6.9%)	- -	6 (2.9%)	54 (26.5%)	11 (5.4%)	50 (24.5%)	204 (100.0%)
BGS Applied Studies	7 (5.0%)	4 (2.9%)	2 (1.4%)	25 (17.9%)	7 (5.0%)	26 (18.6%)	140 (100.0%)
B Administration	122 (9.9%)	19 (1.5%)	33 (2.7%)	217 (17.6%)	65 (5.3%)	113 (9.2%)	1,232 (100.0%)
Transfer	63 (6.0%)	14 (1.3%)	14 (1.3%)	206 (19.7%)	59 (5.7%)	177 (17.0%)	1,044 (100.0%)
Non-Program	136 (7.5%)	21 (1.2%)	42 (2.3%)	373 (20.6%)	117 (6.5%)	313 (17.3%)	1,808 (100.0%)
Visiting	12 (2.9%)	2 (0.5%)	1 (0.2%)	84 (20.0%)	10 (2.4%)	113 (26.9%)	421 (100.0%)
Total	392 (7.4%)	64 (1.2%)	105 (2.0%)	1,056 (19.9%)	301 (5.7%)	897 (16.9%)	5,314 (100.0%)

[12] *Not classified* refers to those students who did not respond to this question on the GAF.

Table 9c.
Occupation of Athabasca University Students by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Occupation Description	Athabasca University	North Island College	All Students
Managerial	406 (9.2%)	39 (4.3%)	445 (8.4%)
Sciences	188 (4.3%)	28 (3.1%)	216 (4.1%)
Social Sciences	138 (3.1%)	19 (2.1%)	157 (3.0%)
Teaching	377 (8.6%)	55 (6.1%)	432 (8.1%)
Health	506 (11.5%)	32 (3.5%)	538 (10.1%)
Clerical	497 (11.3%)	85 (9.5%)	582 (11.0%)
Sales	117 (2.7%)	12 (1.3%)	129 (2.4%)
Service	304 (6.9%)	88 (9.7%)	392 (7.4%)
Transportation	53 (1.2%)	10 (1.1%)	64 (1.2%)
Other crafts	89 (2.0%)	16 (1.8%)	105 (2.0%)
Not classified	858 (19.5%)	198 (21.9%)	1,056 (19.9%)
Miscellaneous	207 (4.7%)	94 (10.4%)	301 (5.7%)
Not working	668 (15.2%)	229 (25.3%)	897 (16.9%)
Total	4,408	906	5,314

Appendix 1.

Athabasca University General Admission Form 1981/82

Instructions

Please read the following information before completing the General Admission Form.

All new students must complete a *General Admission Form* to be admitted to Athabasca University (Sections A and B). This form also allows new students to register in courses for credit, non-credit, or audit purposes (Section C).

Section A: General Information

Every item in this section must be completed in full.

1. **Student Directory**
   Certain information obtained from the *General Admission Form* (i.e., name, address, telephone number, and course titles) will be included in a student directory circulated to other AU students and to staff. The purpose of this directory is to encourage contact between students living in the same area and/or taking the same course. If you wish to be included on this list, please check the appropriate box.
2. **Immigration Status (Number 8)**
   All applicants who do not possess Canadian Citizenship must provide all of the following information: (i) current immigration status in Canada; (ii) date of arrival in Canada; (iii) country of citizenship.

Section B: Admission Status

All applicants must complete this section in full, except those identified in 1 below. If any information is missing from this section, the processing of your admission may be delayed.

1. New students who wish to register only in non-credit courses at the time of admission must complete Numbers 10 and 11 of Section B. (Numbers 12 and 13 should not be completed.)
   For information on non-credit courses see Calendar Section 6.6.
2. **Visiting Student Status (Number 11)**
   If you intend to use AU courses for credit towards the program of study you are currently registered in, you must present a letter of permission indicating the specific courses that have been agreed to in advance by the receiving institution. (See Calendar Section 1.6.5)
3. **Admission Category (Number 12)**
   All students must select an admission category. (See Calendar Section 1.3) This choice will be confirmed by the Registry in a letter of admission.
   Those students who wish to pursue general interests without a program, or who are unsure about which program to select, should choose the non-program category. Students may change their admission status at any time by informing the Registry of their intention in writing.
4. **Transfer of Credit (Number 13)**
   Students who think they are eligible for transfer of credit must request an official transcript sent directly to AU from each post-secondary institution attended. As well, students must submit an official high school transcript. (High school transcripts will not be used to determine admissibility.)
   Students registering in courses before their transfer request has been completed do so at their own risk. (See Calendar Section 1.9.1)

Section C: Course Registration and Fees

If you wish to register in courses, please complete this section and include appropriate fees.

1. **Auditors (See Calendar Section 2.3.1)**
   Students who wish to take AU credit courses but do not wish to be given credit must indicate their intention to audit when they register.
2. **Non-Credit Registration**
   Students who wish to take one or more non-credit courses listed in Section C of the *General Admission Form* do not pay the $20 admission fee. Therefore do not include this amount in "**Total Fees**", or in your payment of fees.
3. **Course Name and Number**
   Detailed information on courses is provided in Section 6.5 of the Calendar. Please indicate both the name and number of the course; do not include the subtitle (e.g., English 210 not Literary Forms and Techniques).
4. **Number of Credits**
   Please specify the number of credits for which you intend to register. In most instances, this will mean the full credit weight of the course. In a few courses, registration in less than the full credit weight is possible (where appropriate, this is specified in the course description).
5. **Preferred Start Date**
   In the column headed "**Preferred start**" indicate which month you wish to start work on your course(s). Your registration will be processed so as to ensure that, if at all possible, you will receive your course materials in time to commence study on the first day of the month specified in this column.
6. **Tuition Fees**
   List the fees appropriate to the course(s) you wish to take. Unless special fee arrangements are specified in the course description (See Calendar Section 6.5), there are only two fee schedules for credit courses, including reading courses: $82.50 for a three-credit course; $165 for a six-credit course. *Foreign students must pay 50 per cent more than these fees. (See Calendar Section 2.3.6)*
7. **Payment of Fees**
   Please note that as a new student, you must pay the one-time only, non-refundable admission fee of $20, unless you are taking only non-credit courses.
   Make sure that all fees, including the admission fee, are sent in with the *General Admission Form*. Fees may be paid by cheque or money order (made payable to "Athabasca University") or by *VISA* (using the form attached below). Admission and/or course registration will be delayed if the fees submitted are less than those required.

Section D: Student Characteristics

This section is optional. However, the information you will provide in this section is very useful to the University in planning and developing courses and services in response to the needs of its students. Please complete it.

Previously Admitted Students

Previously admitted students may register in a course(s) by sending a letter to the Registry, specifying the course name and number (e.g., English 210, not Literary Forms and Techniques) and the month in which they wish to start work on the course(s). **Course fees must accompany this letter.**

Fees may be paid by cheque or money order (made payable to "Athabasca University") or by VISA using the form attached below.

VISA

You can use your *VISA* account to pay your Athabasca University fees. Simply fill in this form, making sure to include your account number. *Please Print*

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Postal Code ⌊_⌊_⌊_⌋ ⌊_⌊_⌊_⌋

Account Number

Expiry date _____

Amount charged	
Total	

X _____
Signature

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General Admission Form 1981/82

For Office Use Only

Section A: General Information *(See Instructions Section A)*

1. Name
Last First Middle

2. Former name

3. Address
Number Street Town/City
Province Postal Code

4. Telephone Please include area code
Residence
Business

☐ Items 1, 3, and 4, together with the titles of any courses you are registered in, will be published in a directory circulated to staff and students, *only if you check the box to the left. (See Instructions Section A.1)*

5. Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

6. Birthdate Day Month Year

7. Current occupation

8. If not Canadian please specify country of citizenship. *(See Instructions Section A.2)*

Immigration status *(check one)*:
☐ Permanent Resident
☐ Student Authorization
☐ Other Please specify
Date of Arrival in Canada

9. Highest level of education completed (Please check one)
☐ Elementary/junior high school
☐ Some high school
☐ High school diploma
☐ Senior matriculation diploma
☐ Vocational/technical school
☐ Some college/school of nursing
☐ College/nursing diploma
☐ Some university
☐ University degree

Section B: Admission Status *(See Instructions Section B)*

10. List all post-secondary institutions, in order of attendance, *with no exceptions* (if more space is needed, please attach a separate sheet).

Institution	Location	Dates attended	Degree/other credential

11. Are you currently in a program at another institution? ☐ Yes ☐ No *(See Instructions Section B.2)*

If yes, Institution _____ Credential expected _____

Program _____ Expected completion date _____

12. Admission Category at Athabasca University *choose one only (See Instructions Section B.3)*

Bachelor of Arts
☐ No concentration
☐ With concentration
Area of concentration _____ *(See Calendar Section 1.5.2)*

Bachelor of General Studies
☐ Liberal Studies
☐ Applied Studies

☐ **Bachelor of Administration**
Area of concentration _____ *(See Calendar Section 1.5.1)*

☐ General Transfer
☐ Nursing Transfer U of A
☐ Nursing Transfer U of C
☐ Social Work Transfer U of C
☐ Visiting student
From which institution _____
☐ Non-program

13. Do you want your previous post-secondary education assessed for transfer of credit towards an Athabasca University degree program? ☐ Yes ☐ No **(See Instructions Section B.4)**

Section C: Course Registration and Fees

Course Name & Number	Preferred Start	Registration Status: Credit Specify number of credits	Registration Status: Audit Specify number of credits	Tuition Fee

Non-Credit Registration	Tuition Fee
001 As Man Behaves	
002 The First Years of Life	
003 The Pre-School Child	
Total Fees	

$20.00 Admission Fee

Total Fees

☐ Payment enclosed (Please make cheque or money order payable to "Athabasca University")

☐ Payment by VISA (Attached form must be completed in full and submitted with this *General Admission Form)*

With regard to this Admission Form I certify that the particulars furnished are true and complete in all respects and that no relevant information has been withheld.

Signature _____ *Date* _____

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Section D: Student Characteristics
This section is optional, but it is very useful to us in planning and developing courses and services. We would appreciate your co-operation in completing it.

First language learned
- ☐ English
- ☐ French
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Marital status
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Single
- ☐ Other

Why do you want a university education? (Please check *all* that apply.)
- ☐ **Career reasons** (professional/job requirements, career advancement, career change, preparation for community/volunteer work)
- ☐ **Educational reasons** (obtain a degree/credential, increase knowledge in a particular field)
- ☐ **Personal reasons** (general interest, self-development, learning for its own sake)

Which of the above is most important to you? (Please check *one*.)
- ☐ Career
- ☐ Educational
- ☐ Personal

Why do you choose to take courses through Athabasca University? (Please check *all* that apply.)
- ☐ **Time factors** (flexible pacing, flexible schedule)
- ☐ **Distance factors** (study at home in own community)
- ☐ **Educational factors** (open admission, type of courses, work on own)
- ☐ **Financial factors** (maintain employment, save cost of attending campus)

Which of the above is most important to you? (Please check *one*.)
- ☐ Time
- ☐ Distance
- ☐ Educational
- ☐ Financial

Which of the following study conditions do you prefer?
- ☐ On your own
- ☐ In a group
- ☐ Combination of the above
- ☐ Not sure

Time commitments

How many people in each age range currently live in your home (including yourself)?

_____ Pre-school

_____ Elementary/junior high

_____ High school

_____ Adult

During the next 12 months, will you be:

a. involved in any *other* education program?
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes_____hrs./wk.

b. employed?
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

c. involved in community or volunteer activities?
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes_____hrs./wk.

How many credits do you hope to complete through Athabasca University in the next 12 months?
- ☐ 24-30
- ☐ 15-21
- ☐ 3-12
- ☐ Not sure

Approximately how many hours per week can you devote to each Athabasca University course?

_____ hrs./wk.

Thank you for your co-operation.

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Appendix 2.

Data Elements Processed for Study

Mnemonic Code	Description	Length
ID	identification number	10
PCODE	postal code	7
SEX	sex	1
OC	occupation	30
DN	degree name	5
CIT	citizenship	3
IMSTAT	immigration status	2
ADA	arrival date	11
FL	first language	11
AI	affiliated institution	4
JU	junior transfer credits	3
SEN	senior transfer credits	3
APP	applied transfer credits	3
HUM	humanities transfer credits	3
SCI	science transfer credits	3
SS	social science transfer credits	3
OTH	other transfer credits	3
DA	date of admission to program	11
PRN	program number	3
DPC	date of program completion	11
EL	highest education level completed	13
EPN	current education involvement	3
LS	study conditions	3
MS	marital status	3
IHPSA	pre-school children	2
IHEJH	elementary/junior high school children	2
IHHSA	high school children	2
IHADA	adults	2
OPH	hours per week other education program	2
E-H	hours per week employed	2
CAH	hours per week volunteer work	2
PF	number of courses during year	2
SH	number of study hours per week	2
SR	student's special requirement	2
IWA	most important reason for applying at Athabasca University	1
IWU	most important reason for university education	1
BD	birth date	11

READER'S COMMENT FORM

Your views about this publication may help improve its usefulness. This form should be sent to the address on the front cover for appropriate action. Using it to request immediate information or other publications will delay response. For more direct handling of such requests, please contact the Office of Institutional Studies at (403) 452-9990.

Possible topics for comment are:

Clarity Accuracy Completeness Organization Figures Tables

If you wish a reply, please indicate your name and mailing address in the space provided below:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for your cooperation.

Figure 1.
Sex Distribution of Athabasca University Students
from Fiscal Years 1978/79 to 1981/82

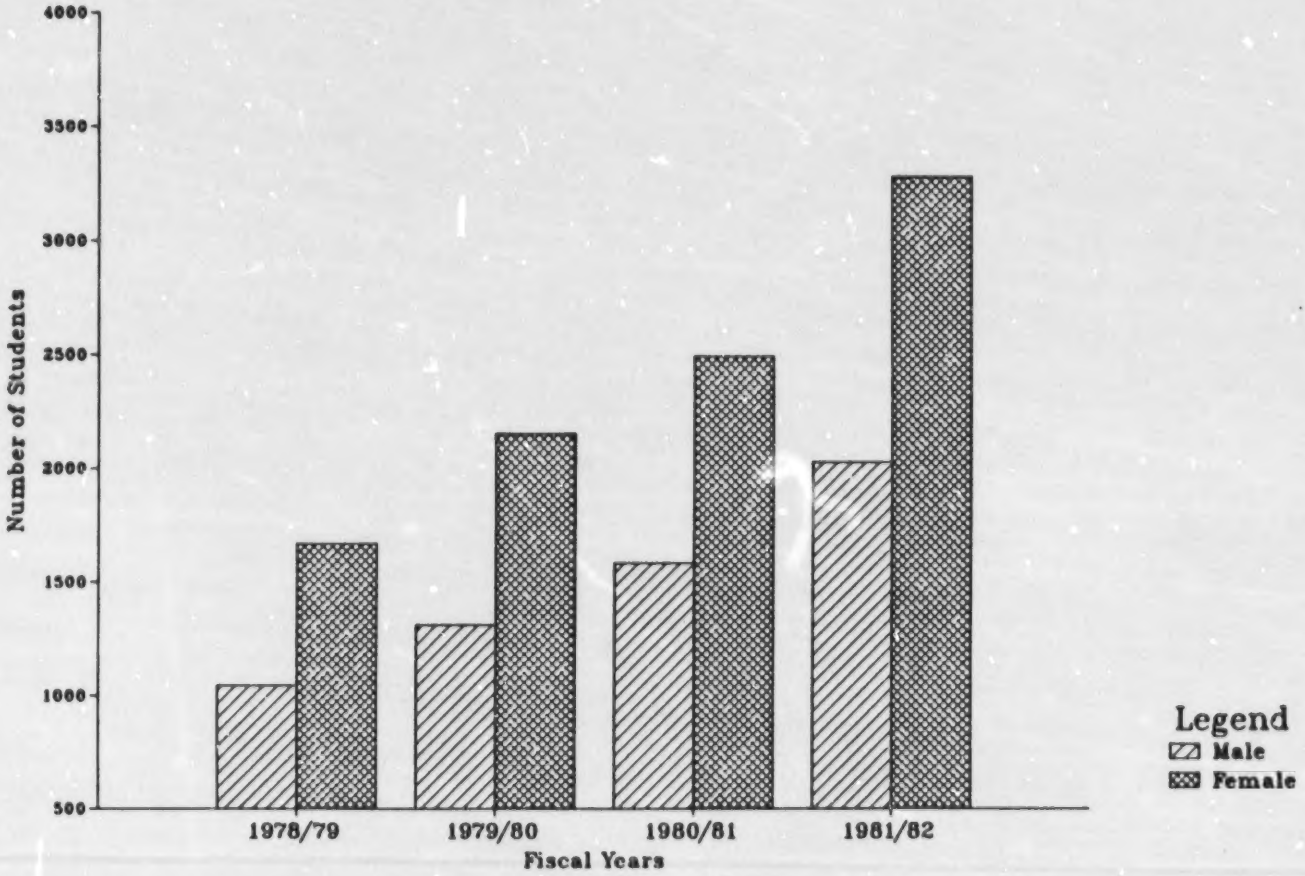

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Figure 2.
Sex Distribution of Athabasca University Students
by Program in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Female **Male** **Total**

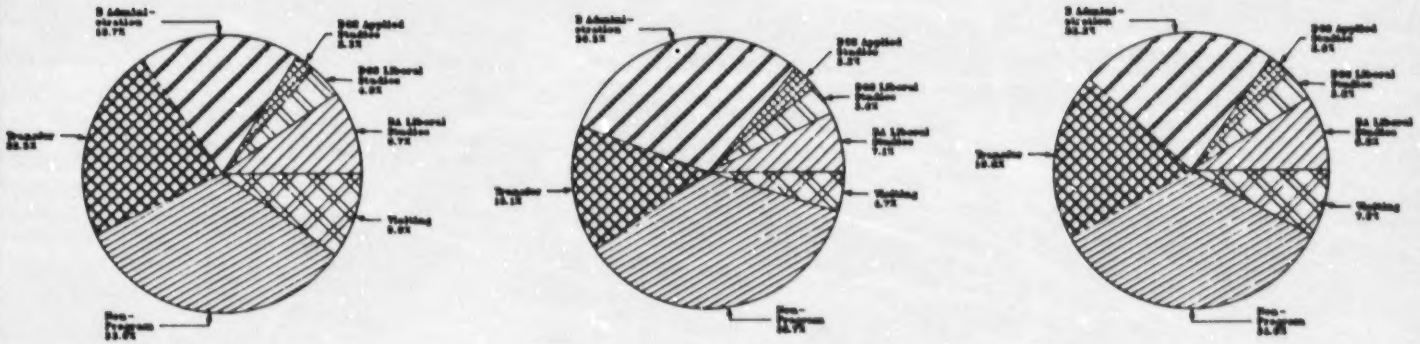

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Figure 3.
Age Distribution of Athabasca University Students
from Fiscal Years 1978/79 to 1981/82

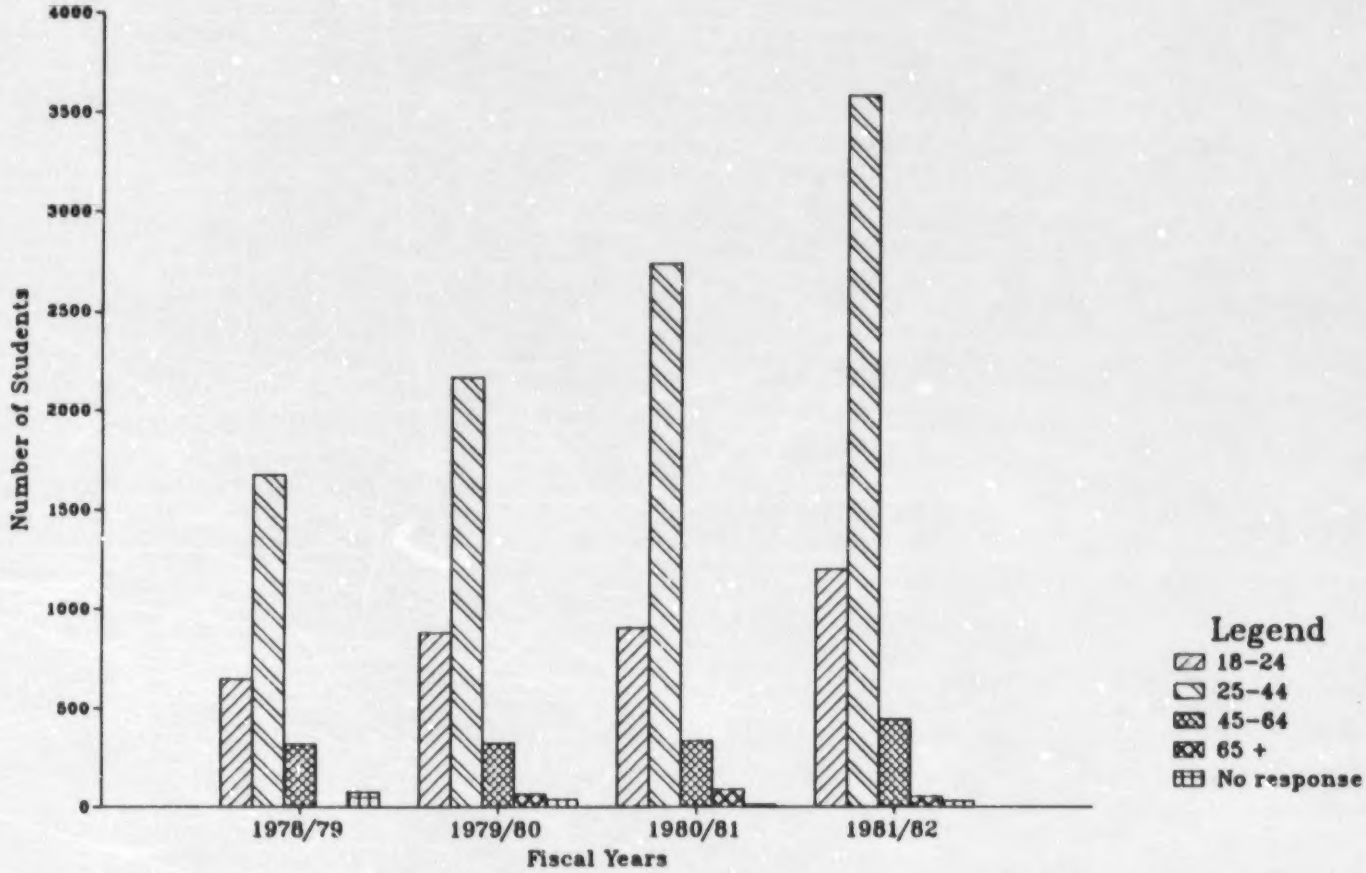

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Figure 4.
Age Distribution of Athabasca University Students
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Athabasca University **North Island College** **All Students**

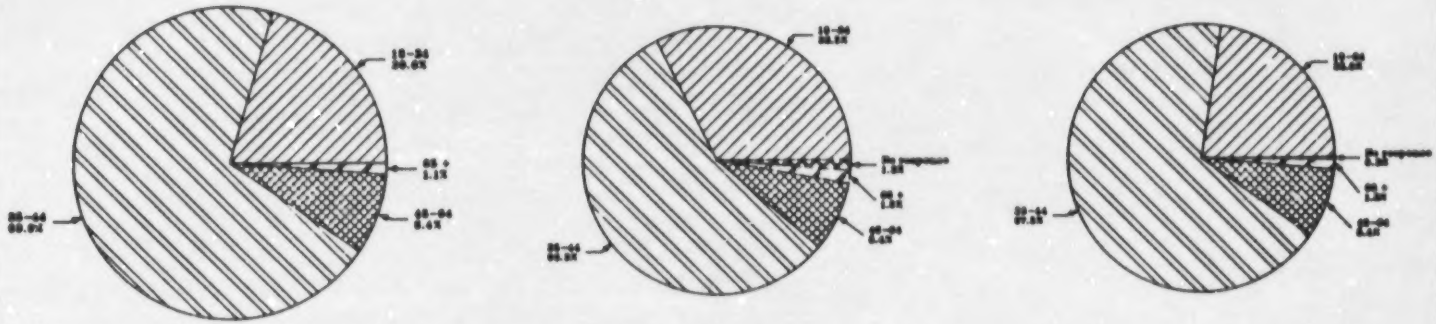

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Figure 5.
Educational Preparation of Athabasca University Students
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Athabasca University **North Island College** **All Students**

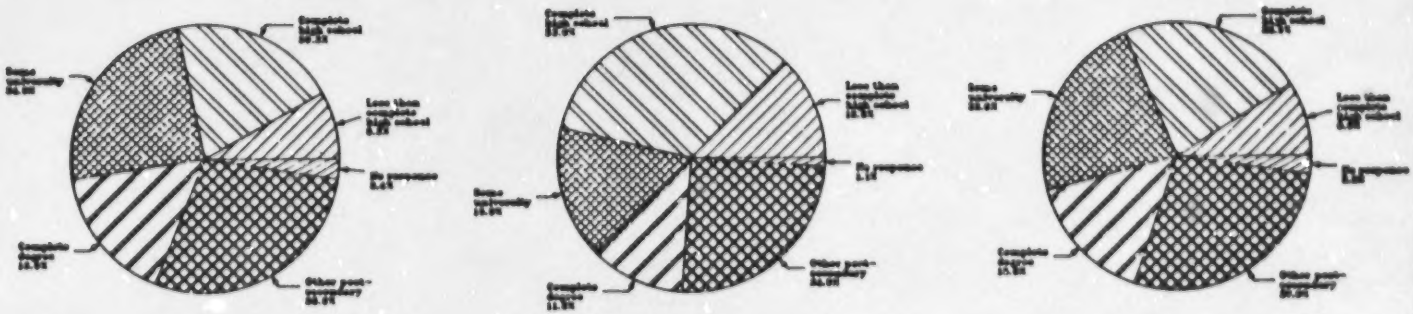

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Figure 6.
Most Important Reason for Wanting a University Education to Athabasca University Students by Program in Fiscal Year 1981/82

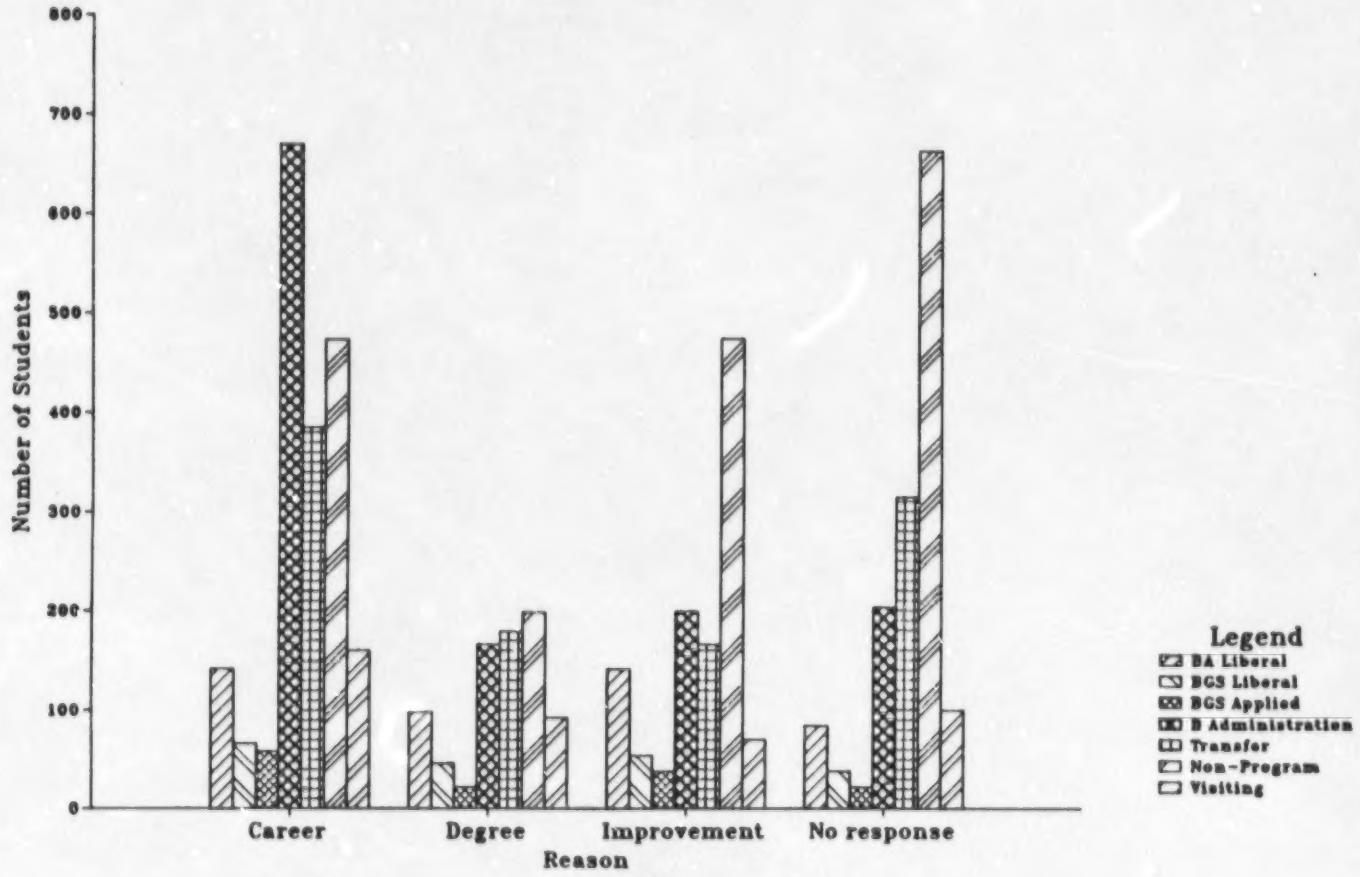

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Figure 7.
Major Reason for Studying at Athabasca University from Fiscal Years 1978/79 to 1981/82

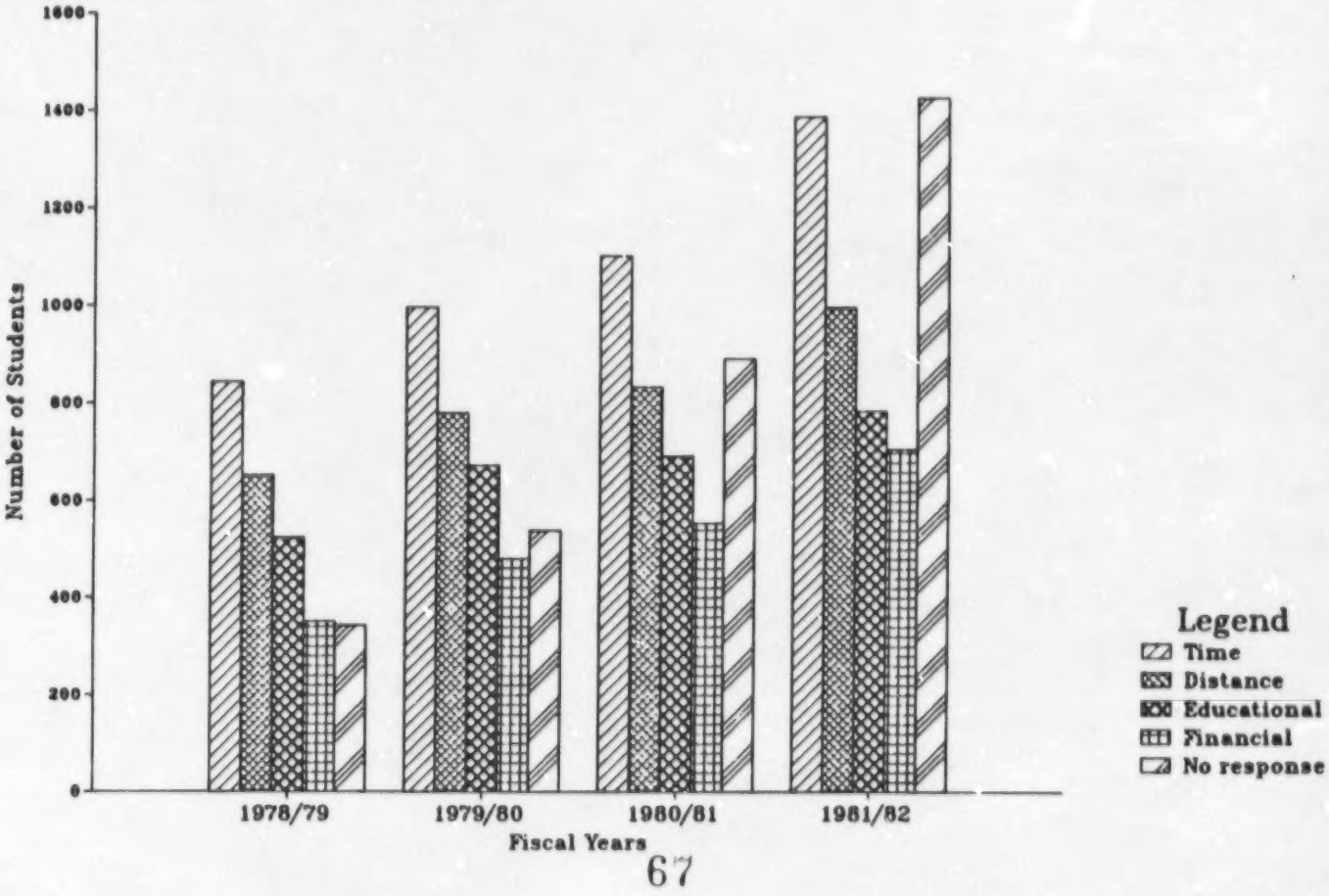

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Figure 8.
Most Important Reason for Wanting a University Education to Athabasca University Students by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Athabasca University **North Island College** **All Students**

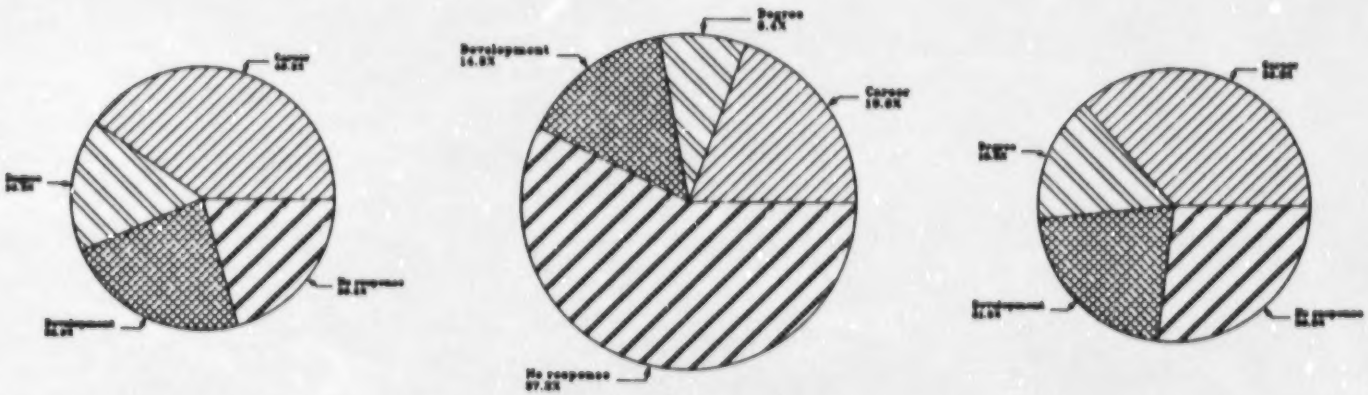

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Figure 9.
Major Reason for Studying at Athabasca University
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Athabasca University **North Island College** **All Students**

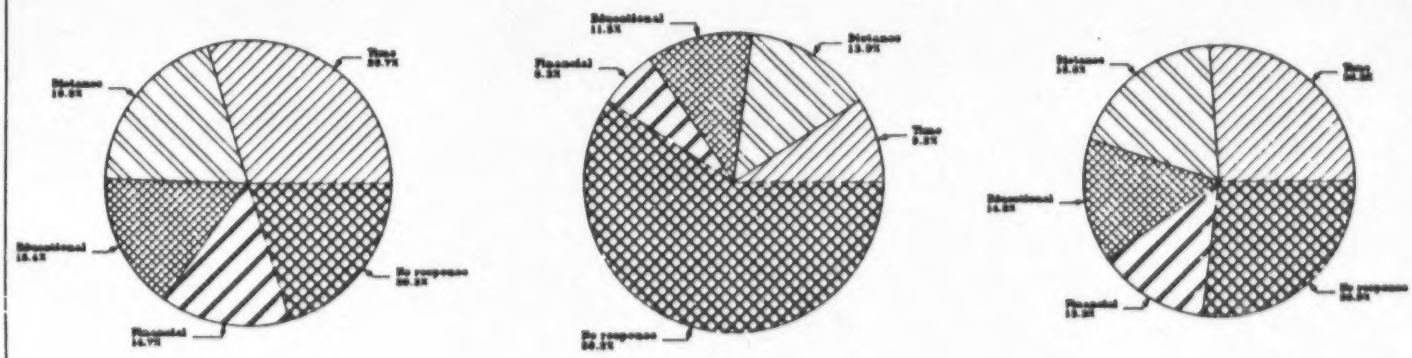

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Figure 10.
Preferred Learning Situation of Athabasca University Students
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Athabasca University **North Island College** **All Students**

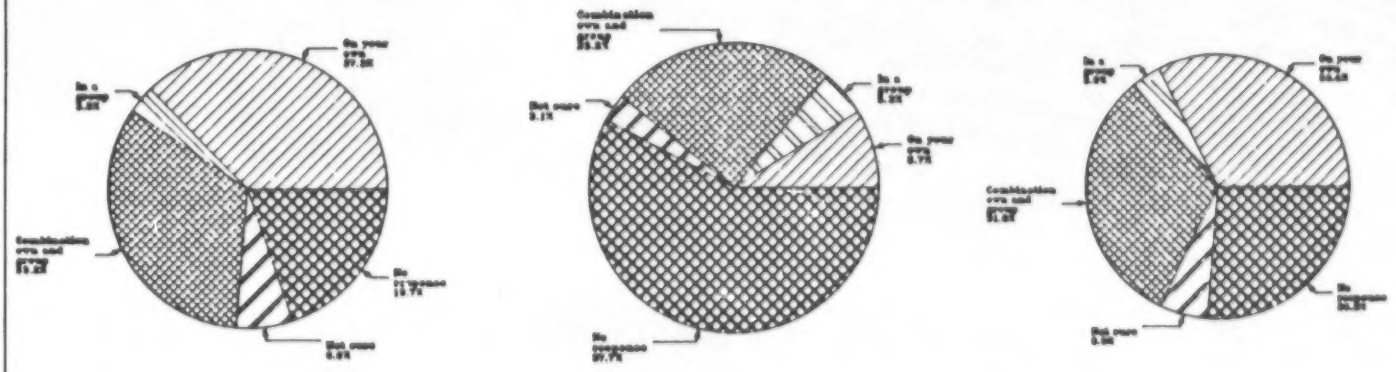

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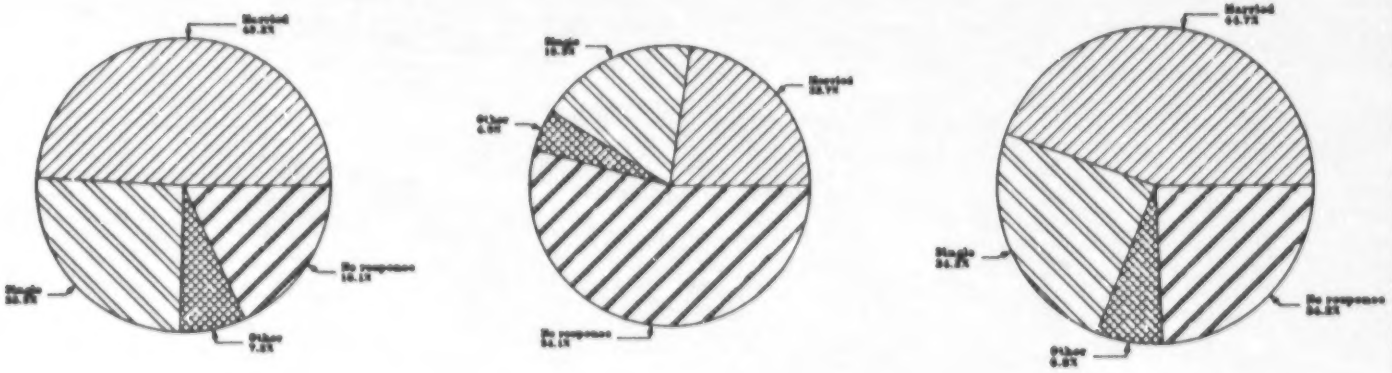
Figure 11.
Marital Status of Athabasca University Students
by Institution in Fiscal Year 1981/82

Athabasca University **North Island College** **All Students**



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